

# THE UNITED STATES BECOMES A WORLD POWER (1867–1959)



## TIME LINE

EVENTS ELSEWHERE	DATE	EVENTS IN AMERICA
	1867	United States purchased Alaska
	1889	Pan American Union formed
	1898	Hawaii annexed by United States; Battleship <i>Maine</i> sunk; Spanish-American War
	1899	United States controlled Samoan Islands
<i>Panama broke from Colombia</i>	1903	
<i>Archduke Francis Ferdinand assassinated; World War I began</i>	1914	Panama Canal opened
	1915	<i>Lusitania</i> sunk by Germany
	1916	General Pershing sent to Mexico to capture Pancho Villa
<i>Russian Revolution</i>	1917	United States bought Virgin Islands; people in Puerto Rico became U.S. citizens; United States entered World War I
	1918	Armistice in World War I; Wilson's Fourteen Points
	1919	Treaty of Versailles
	1920	Vote given to women
	1921	United States signed treaty with Germany
<i>Mussolini gained power in Italy</i>	1922	
	1929	Stock Market collapsed; Great Depression began
	1932	Roosevelt elected president
<i>Hitler appointed chancellor of Germany</i>	1933	Worst part of Great Depression

### ACTIVATING PRIOR KNOWLEDGE

Watch for answers to these questions as you read.

- What new lands did the United States buy and why did they buy them?
- What new lands did the United States take over and why did they do so?
- What problems did the United States have with some of these new lands?
- How did the United States get along with nations to the south?
- Why did the United States enter World War I?
- After World War I ended, what things went wrong for the United States?

## **INTRODUCTION**

In the years following the Civil War, the United States began to pay more and more attention to what was going on in the rest of the world. It emerged as a major world power.

And the United States continued to expand. It got land by buying it, by going to war, and by giving smaller countries help. Just like any landlord, America had problems with some of these new holdings.

Then the United States used the Monroe Doctrine as a reason for getting involved with Latin America.

All too soon, America had been drawn into a great war in Europe. Following that war, when things were looking positive, the nation was suddenly in the worst shape it had been in since the Civil War.

## **ALASKA**

In 1867, William Seward was secretary of state. He was a man who believed in expanding, or making the United States bigger. One day a Russian official offered Seward a real bargain. Russia would sell Alaska to the United States for about two cents an acre. Seward hurried to get Congress to approve the deal. Later that year the United States bought Alaska for \$7.2 million. Many people called Alaska "Seward's Icebox" and "Seward's Folly."

When gold was discovered in Alaska, people no longer asked why the United States needed the territory. Salmon, timber, furs, and oil added to Alaska's products. In 1959, Alaska became the forty-ninth state.

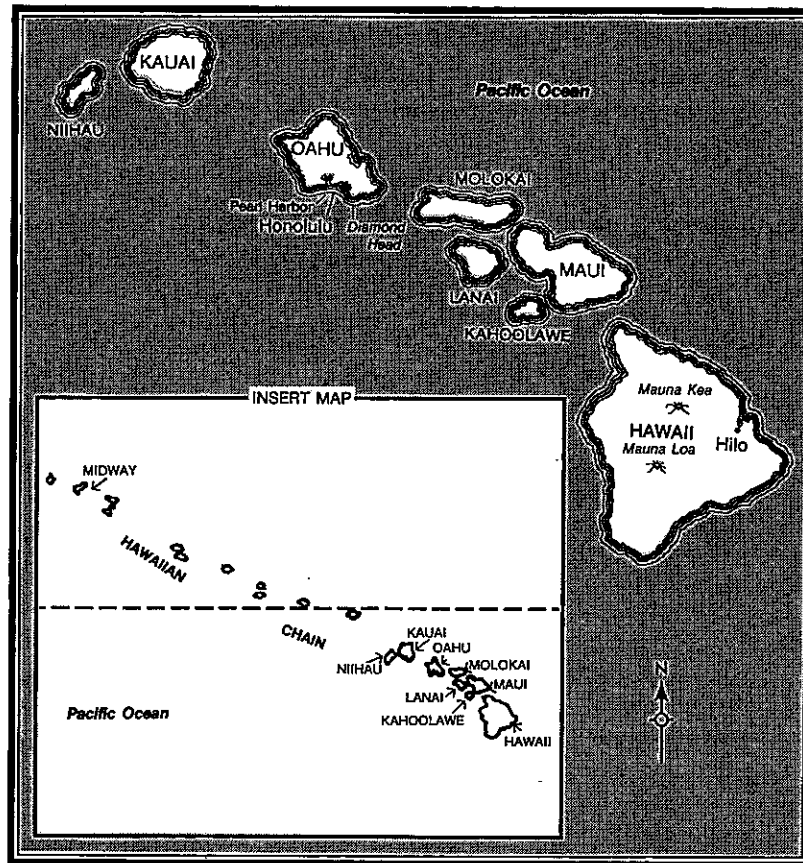
Usually Americans do not think of Russia as being too near the United States. However, if you look closely at the Diomed Islands in the Bering Sea, you can see an interesting fact. Russia owns Big Diomed and the United States owns Little Diomed. Three miles separate the United States from Russia!

## **THE HAWAIIAN ISLANDS**

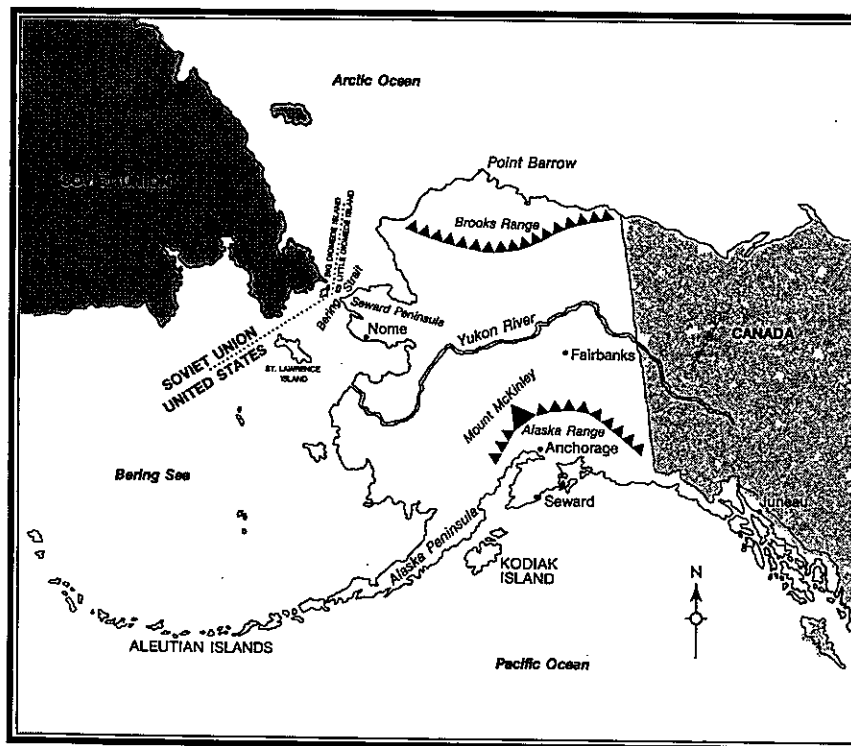
In 1898, Hawaii was annexed by the United States. The Hawaiian Islands are a series of volcanic islands in the Pacific Ocean. The people of the Hawaiian Islands have come from various places—from the Polynesian islands many miles to the south, and from China, Japan, America, and Korea.

Hawaii is the largest of the islands. Mauna Kea and Mauna Loa are two volcanoes on Hawaii. The island of Lanai is known for pineapples. Honolulu is the capital city of the Hawaiian Islands. It is located on the island of Oahu. Also on Oahu is Pearl Harbor, where much of the United States Navy was stationed before the start of World War II. Oahu has half the population of all of the Hawaiian Islands. Niihau is privately owned. Most residents of Niihau are pure Hawaiian.

### The Hawaiian Islands

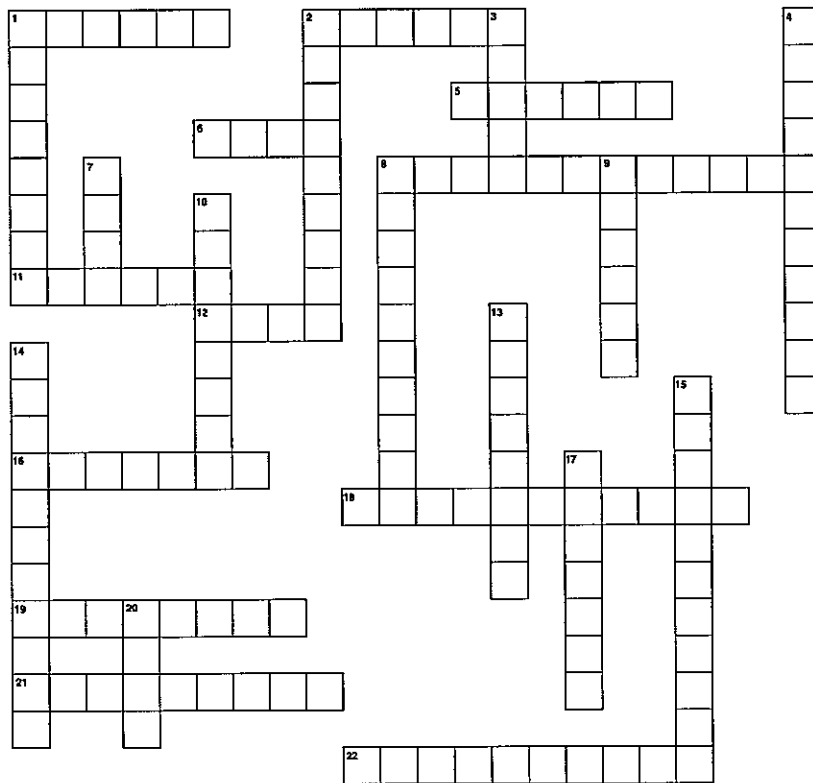


### Alaska



**CROSSWORD PUZZLE: ALASKA AND HAWAII**

Using the information and maps on Alaska and the Hawaiian Islands, complete this puzzle with the word or words that best fit each clue.

**Across**

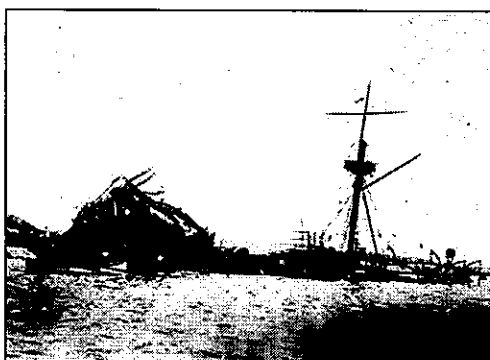
1. the forty-ninth state
2. a large island south of Seward, Alaska
5. capital city of Alaska
6. largest city on the island of Hawaii
8. body of water separating Alaska from Russia
11. privately owned Hawaiian island
12. Alaskan city on the Seward Peninsula
16. Hawaiian island north of Lanai
18. famous naval base west of Honolulu
19. capital city of the state of Hawaii
21. city north of Seward that has more people than the capital of Alaska
22. large island south of the Bering Strait

**Down**

1. chain of islands off Alaska's southwestern coast
2. a small Hawaiian island south of Maui
3. island northwest of Oahu
4. piece of land that reaches farther north than any other part of the state of Alaska
7. The island of Hawaii seems to be pointing a finger at this island.
8. small island in the Bering Strait
9. the man responsible for the U.S. purchase of Alaska
10. northern volcanic mountain on the island of Hawaii that is the highest in the state
13. volcanic mountain southwest of Hilo on the island of Hawaii
14. mountain people often see when they fly into Honolulu
15. mountains in northern Alaska
17. where Alaska and Hawaii are found
20. island where one half of the total population of the state of Hawaii lives

## THE UNITED STATES AS A LANDLORD

In the 1890s, the people of Cuba **revolted** against Spain, the country that owned their island. The fight between the Spanish soldiers and the Cuban people went on for some time. Since many Americans lived in Cuba, the United States was very interested in what was going on. In 1898, the battleship *Maine* sailed to Cuba to protect Americans living there. About a month after the *Maine* reached Havana harbor, it blew up one night. The terrible explosion caused the ship to sink at once. Nearly 300 American sailors died that night. All over America, the cry of “Remember the *Maine*!” was heard. On April 25, the United States declared war on Spain.



Wreck of the U.S.S. *Maine*

NATIONAL ARCHIVES AND RECORDS ADMINISTRATION

**revolt**—to rebel, or rise up, against a ruler, government, or state

## YELLOW PRESS

Sometimes called **yellow journalism**, the yellow press got its name from a newspaper circulation war. In the late 1800s, several New York newspapers each tried to outsell the others. The *Journal* and the *World* tried to give readers more news and sent reporters all over the world. The use of big headlines helped attract readers.

Joseph Pulitzer published the *World*. He used lots of drawings, as well as huge headlines, to attract readers. His paper began to print comics and carried many stories about crime and the problems of famous people. The *World* added color to its pages in 1893.

William Randolph Hearst published the *Journal*. He wanted his paper to be even more widely read than the *World*. He also used color in his newspaper and began printing colored comic strips. Of course he, too, printed many stories about crime and what people did wrong.

Both papers had a comic strip with a young boy who wore a shapeless yellow sack. The comic-strip character was called the “yellow kid.” This all led to the term “yellow journalism” or the “yellow press.”

The yellow press became famous when the United States was having troubles with Cuba in 1898. When the battleship *Maine* blew up and sank in Havana harbor, the newspapers went wild.

Stories began to appear about the terrible treatment of rebels in Cuba, which was governed by Spain. Some papers called for war. Though the stories these papers printed were not always totally true, people believed what they read.

Historians have suggested the Spanish-American War was as much the fault of newspapers as of any other cause.

**yellow journalism**—publishing exaggerated or made-up news stories to attract readers or to make readers think a certain way

The United States planned to blockade Cuba and destroy the Spanish fleet. On May 1, Commodore George Dewey and a fleet of American ships attacked the Spanish fleet in Manila Bay in the Philippine Islands. At the end of the battle, eight Americans were wounded and no ships damaged. The entire Spanish fleet was either sunk or captured, and 381 Spaniards were killed. In one battle, much of Spain's sea power was gone.

On land, things went a little more slowly. U.S. forces invaded the Philippine Islands and, after hard fighting, took control of them. In Cuba, the army had a terrible time. American soldiers died from diseases and improper food. Even though it was summer, they were dressed in winter uniforms. A group of volunteers called the Rough Riders, commanded by Colonel Leonard Wood and Lieutenant Theodore Roosevelt, won a great victory at San Juan Hill.

Soon after this, the few Spanish ships in Cuban harbors tried to escape to Spain. They were all destroyed by the waiting American fleet.

Shortly afterward, Americans captured the island of Puerto Rico. On August 12, the three-and-a-half-month war ended. The United States now owned Puerto Rico, the Philippines, and Guam. Cuba was given its freedom, but American soldiers stayed on the island for the time being.



U.S. soldiers in the Philippines

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### CRITICAL THINKING

Secretary of State John Hay called the war with Spain a "splendid little war." What could he have meant by that?

America's next land additions were small islands. The United States had taken over Midway Island in the Pacific Ocean in 1867. In 1899, Wake Island in the Pacific was taken over by the navy. Wake is about 2,000 miles west of Hawaii and about three square miles in size. Nobody lived there. Why did the United States want it, then? Its location is the answer. The navy wanted it as a stopping place for ships. Later, it became an air base for planes flying across the Pacific.

Guam also became a naval base and later a stopping place for flights.

In 1899, America also took control of the Samoan Islands as a stopping place between the United States and Australia.

The map on page 131 shows the great area over which United States power is felt in the Pacific. In addition to the possessions shown on the map, the United States "looks after" many small islands in the Pacific.

## MELODRAMAS

In the late 1800s, a form of entertainment called a melodrama became popular. Melodramas were funny little plays that all had pretty much the same theme.

Every melodrama had a villain, a heroine, and a hero. The villain was truly bad and always dressed in black. He was always male and spent lots of time twirling his mustache.

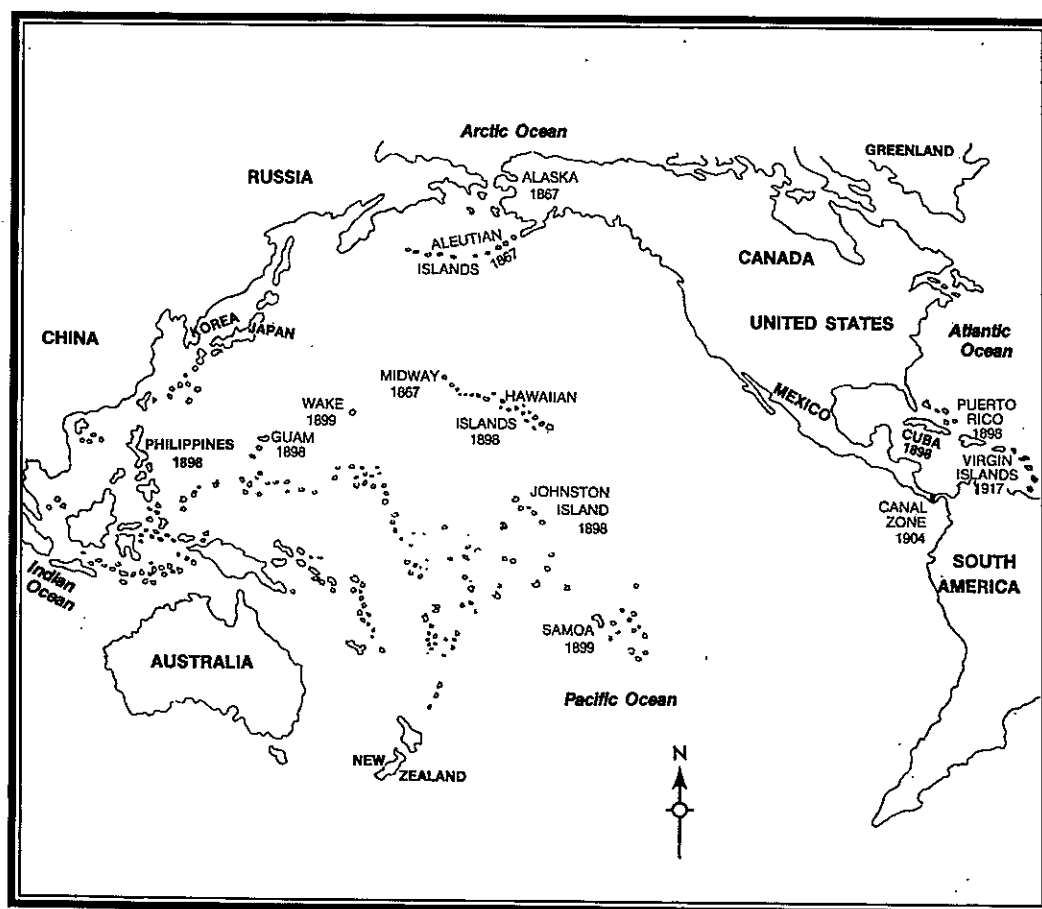
The heroine was a helpless young woman who had some terrible problem. She could not pay the rent,

or she needed money to care for her sick mother.

Just as the villain was about to take advantage of the heroine, the brave hero appeared. He was always perfect, handsome, and wonderful. Best of all, he saved the heroine from the villain's clutches.

When movies first came into being, many of them were actually melodramas on film.

## The United States Expands: 1867–1917



The United States decided to dig a canal across Central America so ships could move from ocean to ocean without having to sail around the tip of South America. The question was this: Should the canal cross Panama or Nicaragua? Crossing Nicaragua was longer but easier. Congress had to decide. Someone gave each member of Congress a postage stamp from Nicaragua. Each stamp showed that country's volcanoes. The question was decided. Panama was to have the canal.

The government of Panama was controlled by Colombia. Colombia did not want the canal; Panama did. In 1903, Panama revolted. President Theodore Roosevelt sent a fleet of American ships to keep Colombia from sending in troops. When the revolt was a success, the United States paid Panama \$10 million for a piece of land across Panama about 10 miles wide. The story of how the canal was built there is told on page 133.

Later, in 1917, the United States paid Denmark \$25 million for the Virgin Islands in the Caribbean Sea. A military base was built there to help protect the new canal across Panama.

### ICED TEA AND ICE CREAM CONES

The Louisiana Purchase Exposition was held in St. Louis during the summer of 1904. The weather was hot and sticky as thousands upon thousands of people came to the World's Fair.

Visitors found the heat easier to stand because of two treats offered there for the first time.

Americans were used to drinking hot tea. But here, for the first time,

they bought cold tea with ice in it. The love of iced tea was born that hot summer in St. Louis.

Ice cream had long been popular in the nation. It was eaten out of a dish or bowl. At the Fair, customers were served a scoop of ice cream held by a sugar-wafer holder. It was not called a cone, however. What we now call a cone was sold then as a cornucopia.

### LANDLORD PROBLEMS

The United States found that many problems resulted from owning property. When American soldiers were in Cuba fighting Spanish troops, more Americans died of disease than were killed by the enemy. Something had to be done about **yellow fever** and **malaria**. Dr. Walter Reed, an army doctor, and Dr. Carlos Finlay, a Cuban doctor, worked on the problem. Finlay thought mosquitoes carried the disease. Soldiers volunteered to be bitten by mosquitoes that had bitten men with yellow fever. The volunteers fell ill with yellow fever. Mosquitoes did carry the disease!

The answer was to kill the mosquitoes. Oil was spread over mosquito breeding grounds; swamps were drained. In a few months, Cuba was a safer place to live.

**yellow fever**—a mosquito-borne disease that can cause internal bleeding, liver failure, and death

**malaria**—a disease spread by mosquitoes that causes severe chills and fever



By 1902, Cuba had set up its own government. The United States kept a naval base there in case trouble developed. In 1934, Americans gave up any claim to Cuba except for the naval base.

In addition to Cuba, the United States was also involved with Puerto Rico. The United States built roads, worked for better education, and improved health conditions for the people of that little island. Their sugar and bananas were shipped to the United States. In 1917, the people of Puerto Rico became United States citizens. They make their own laws but are protected by the United States. Some people say Puerto Rico will one day be the fifty-first state.

### CRITICAL THINKING

Many of its citizens wish Puerto Rico to remain a territory. Why might they rather live in a territory than a state?

The next question was what to do with the Philippines. A revolt against the Americans took place soon after the Spanish troops left. Even with that bad beginning, work was begun to improve health, education, and farming. Here, too, the United States bought products from the people, built schools, and improved living conditions.

For years the people of the Philippines made their own laws and elected their own lawmakers. In 1934, they became completely self-governing with American protection. In 1946, they became an independent nation.

But what about the canal across Panama? A huge French company had already tried to dig a canal across the narrow **isthmus** of Panama. That company spent over \$250 million and lost 40,000 men before it gave up. After helping Panama revolt, the United States bought the French claims in 1904. Now the United States was ready for business.

Colonel William Gorgas was sent to Panama to control yellow fever. He had done the same thing earlier in Cuba. In two years, the mosquitoes were under control, and the water supply was safe. Work could begin!

The Army Engineers under Colonel George Goethals did the work. They blasted through mountains of solid rock.

The canal was built with large sections called **locks**. The locks have gates at each end. They can raise water and ships in the canal above sea level in some places. In 1914, the Panama Canal was open for use.



The Panama Canal

**isthmus**—a narrow strip of land that runs between two bodies of water and joins two bodies of land

**lock**—a section of a canal in which the water level can be raised or lowered to let ships pass from one level to another

**REVIEW: EVENTS AND ISSUES**

This is a matching exercise. Each item in the first column has a strong association with one item in the second column. Write the best answer from the second column after each item in the first column.

1. Alaska _____	1917
2. Hawaii _____	1867
3. Virgin Islands _____	1898
4. Alaska _____	Manila Bay
5. George Dewey _____	Rough Riders
6. Theodore Roosevelt _____	Seward's Folly
7. San Juan Hill _____	Havana harbor
8. Manila Bay _____	Cuba
9. Maine _____	Philippines
10. Alaska _____	\$10 million
11. Virgin Islands _____	\$25 million
12. Panama _____	\$7.2 million
13. Walter Reed _____	the Big Ditch
14. George Goethals _____	yellow fever
15. Panama Canal _____	Panama Canal builder

**TROUBLES SOUTH OF THE BORDER**

The people of South and Central America had formed independent nations in the years following the American Revolution. These countries south of the United States are known as Latin America. President Monroe had included Latin America in his Monroe Doctrine in 1823.

During the Civil War in the United States, the leader of France had sent troops to take over Mexico. For several years, France controlled Mexico. When the Civil War ended, the American president warned France to withdraw the troops. The Mexican people revolted against the government France had forced on them. Once again, Mexico was ruled by its own people.

## THE PAN AMERICAN UNION

In 1889, a conference was held to develop friendship and cooperation among the nations of North and South America.

Dating back to the Monroe Doctrine in 1823, the United States had warned Europe to stay out of American politics. Now it was hoped the twenty-one nations that joined the Pan American Union could work together to make sure the member nations were safe from European interference.

Headquarters were set up in Washington, DC. Every few years

meetings were held in various member nations. Even though the members thought the Union was a good idea, many did not trust the powerful United States.

Though the nations of North and South America continued to work together, the term "Pan American" was eventually dropped. To many, it meant control by the United States, which was something none of the smaller nations wanted. In 1948, a new inter-American organization was started. It is called the Organization of American States (OAS).

Then, in 1895, the United Kingdom and the United States came close to war over Venezuela in South America. The border between Venezuela and British Guiana was the cause of the trouble. The United Kingdom agreed to discuss the problem rather than risk war with the United States.

In the next few years, the United States became more and more involved in Latin America. In 1905, United States officials took over the money affairs of the Dominican Republic. Then the United States did the same in Haiti. U.S. Marines went to the island of Haiti in 1915 and stayed for nineteen years. In 1912, U.S. Marines had gone to Nicaragua to protect United States property there. The marines stayed in Nicaragua for twenty-one years.

Between 1910 and 1920, Mexico had one revolution after another. Changes in Mexico gave poor people land to farm and gave the oil and minerals to the government. The United States tried to calm down things in Mexico and protect Americans living there.

In 1916, Pancho Villa, a revolutionary leader, took eighteen Americans from a train and killed them. Then he went into a small town in New Mexico and killed seventeen more Americans. General John J. Pershing was sent into Mexico to stop Villa. After several battles with Villa's troops, the Americans came home the next year. Pershing had chased Villa all over northern Mexico without capturing him.

By now the nations of Latin America were tired of the United States acting as a watchdog for them. They were afraid of the big nation north of them and thought it was likely to take them over.

In the years that followed, the U.S. marines came home. Mexico **nationalized** land belonging to American oil companies in 1938. The oil companies were paid a low price for their land.

In the 1930s, important meetings were held among members of the Pan American Union. Latin America and the United States tried to work together. When World War II began, most Latin American countries helped the United States. Today, Latin America is an important American trading partner.

**nationalize**—to remove from private ownership and place under government control

### CRITICAL THINKING

Mexico nationalized land belonging to American oil companies. What may be some reasons the United States government did not use force to prevent this?

### MAP ACTIVITY: PROTECTORATES AND TERRITORIES

Check the map on page 137 and write the answers to these three questions on the lines provided.

1. Five countries on the map were protectorates of the United States at one time. All of them are now independent. Name these five countries.

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2. Other than the mainland of the United States, what two areas on the map are still territories of the United States?

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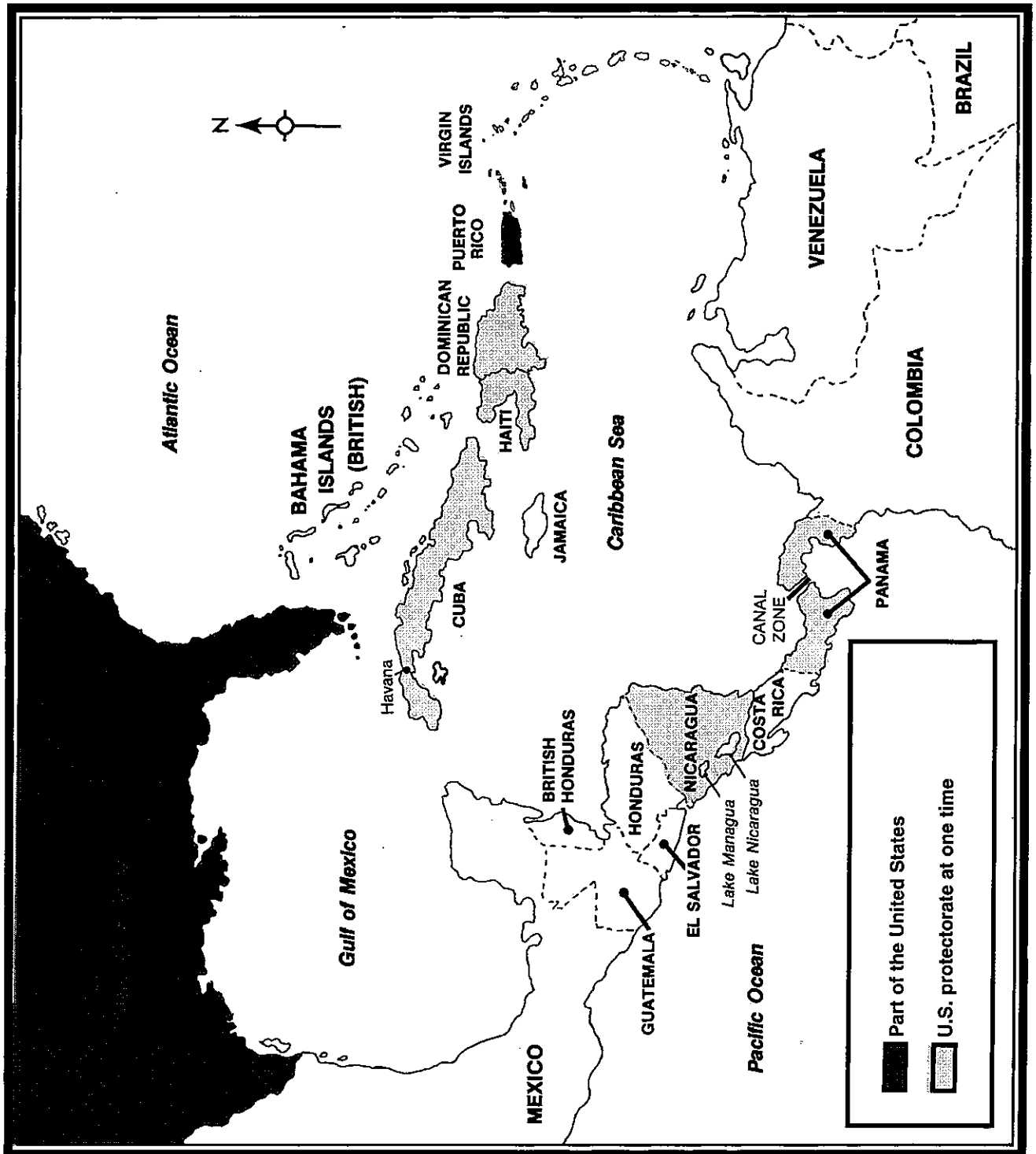


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3. In what direction would you be going if you went from the Caribbean Sea through the Panama Canal to the Pacific Ocean? Be very sure of your answer.

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U.S. Influence in the Caribbean and Central America: 1867 to Present



## THE UNITED STATES IN WORLD WAR I

While the United States was having its troubles in Latin America, Europe was working its way toward a great war.

Germany was unhappy because other European nations had **colonies** on the continents of Africa and Asia. For years, some nations of Europe had been taking part in an arms race. Each nation was trying to have a bigger and better army and navy than its rivals. When some of the smaller nations argued, the larger nations took sides.

Soon this choosing of sides caused two **alliances** to form. The idea of an alliance was that if one member was attacked, the other members would come to its aid. Three nations formed the Triple Alliance. They were Germany, Austria-Hungary, and Italy. Great Britain, France, and Russia were members of the Triple Entente, the other alliance.

On June 28, 1914, the archduke of Austria-Hungary, Francis Ferdinand, was shot. This was the spark that set off World War I.

War was declared. Armies began to march, and fighting began. The members of the Triple Alliance eventually were called the Central Powers, with the exception of Italy. Italy joined the Triple Entente nations, which were called the **Allies**.

German armies invaded France after defeating Belgium. Great Britain rushed in to help France. Trenches, or ditches, were dug across France, and Europe was at war.

What should the United States do? President Woodrow Wilson and many other Americans said it should not take sides, that it should stay neutral. From 1914 through 1916, the United States did stay **neutral**. It traded with both the Central Powers and the Allies. Slowly the United States did more and more trading with the Allies.

Americans were friendlier toward the Allies than toward the Central Powers. It was also easier to trade with the Allies. The Allies had set up a great naval blockade around the ports used by Germany and its friends.

In order to hurt the Allies, the Germans started using **submarine** warfare. German submarines, or U-boats, started looking for Allied ships to sink. Soon the Germans used unrestricted submarine warfare. Ships of any nation were sunk, whether they were supply ships or passenger ships.

Then, on May 7, 1915, the British passenger ship *Lusitania* was sailing from New York toward England. The German sub *U-20* torpedoed the great ship off the Irish coast. In a few minutes, the *Lusitania* was sunk. Out of more than 1,000 who drowned, 114 were Americans. Angry Americans were ready to fight!



Destruction in Belgium, 1918

**colony**—a settlement set up and ruled by people from another country

**alliance**—a formal agreement between two or more nations to help one another in times of war

**allies**—people or countries that join together for a special purpose, such as helping one another in times of war

**neutral**—not supporting or favoring either side in a war, conflict, or contest

**submarine**—a ship that operates under water

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## EDDIE RICKENBACKER (1890–1973)

Eddie Rickenbacker represented Americans who tried to make the world safe and make America strong. He became an example of how a poor person could make good in the United States.

Rickenbacker was born October 8, 1890, in Columbus, Ohio. Eddie was one of the oldest children in a family of eight. When his father died, Eddie felt his responsibility greatly.

Eddie dropped out of junior high school. He got a job working twelve hours a day, six days a week. He earned only \$3.50 per week. Eddie realized he needed an education. He took a correspondence course in mechanical engineering. Then he got a job with the Columbus Buggy Company. There he began experimenting with automobiles.

In 1907, Eddie got into auto racing. He continued to race until 1916 and was ranked third among American speed champions. In 1916, he was in England organizing a racing team when the United States entered World War I.

Rickenbacker enlisted in the Army in May 1917. He wanted to fly fighter planes, but the Army said he was too old. Finally, the Army agreed that he could learn to fly. Eddie loved it and became a good pilot. Eventually, he was assigned to the Ninety-fourth Aero Pursuit Squadron. This group became known as the "Hat in the Ring" Squad because of their insignia. They were the first American aero



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unit to fight on the western front.

Rickenbacker led Flight One against the "Flying Circus" of the German ace, von Richthofen, in 1918. By the time the war ended, both the Hat in the Ring and Rickenbacker were famous. He had become an ace during the war. His squadron did more than any other squadron, with sixty-nine enemy kills to its credit. Rickenbacker was awarded many medals and received a hero's welcome when he returned to the United States.

Rickenbacker returned to the automobile business. He put his money into the Indianapolis Speedway, buying controlling interest in 1927. He kept the controlling interest in the speedway until 1947.

In 1929, Rickenbacker joined the American Airways, Inc. He continued with airplanes until he finally joined Eastern Airlines, Inc. in 1935. He became president and director of Eastern.

**EDDIE RICKENBACKER, CONTINUED**

When the United States entered World War II, the secretary of war, Henry Stimson, asked Rickenbacker to help. Eddie had technical knowledge that Stimson needed.

Secretary of War Stimson sent Rickenbacker to inspect American air bases abroad. On his second mission, the plane in which he was flying missed its landing spot in the Pacific. It was forced down 600 miles north of Samoa in the Pacific Ocean. For twenty-three days, Rickenbacker and six other men floated in the Pacific Ocean. The men caught fish when they could and drank rainwater. When the raft was finally found, the men were in good spirits but had lost a great deal of weight. Rickenbacker

was flown, strapped to the wing of a small plane, to a hospital. He rested two weeks and then continued his mission.

Before the end of the war, Rickenbacker proposed a plan for the expansion of the civil airlines. If they grew, there would be a place for the pilots who had been trained to fly during the war. He also wanted the first-class mail carried by planes. With Rickenbacker at its head, Eastern Airlines made money when other airlines were losing money.

Rickenbacker died in Switzerland in 1973 at the age of eighty-two. He was a success at just about everything he did.

In spite of this, President Wilson felt the United States should still stay out of the war. But, in early 1917, German submarines sank several American ships without warning. At about this time, the British got hold of a top-secret note from the Germans to Mexico. A top German official named Alfred Zimmermann had sent the message to another German official in Mexico. The note said that if the United States went to war, Mexico should help Germany by invading the American Southwest. In return, Mexico could get back Texas and the Southwest. The British gave the note to the Americans. The Americans were angry. Other American ships were sunk, so finally, on April 6, 1917, the United States declared war.



U.S. Army recruiting poster

**CRITICAL THINKING**

It was to Germany's advantage for the United States to stay out of the war. Why did German submarines sink American ships, which they knew would anger Americans?



American soldiers arrived in France just when the Allies were in the most trouble. Russia had a great revolution, which changed its government. The Russians had signed a peace treaty with Germany and stopped fighting. This had taken them out of the war on the side of the Allies. German troops left Russia and were moving toward the western front in France. Only the fresh American troops kept the Allies from being overrun and pushed back. The German drive slowed, then stopped. By July 1918, the Germans were falling back in retreat.

On November 11, 1918, an **armistice**, or cease-fire, was signed. The war was over. Today, this date is celebrated every year in the United States as Veterans Day.

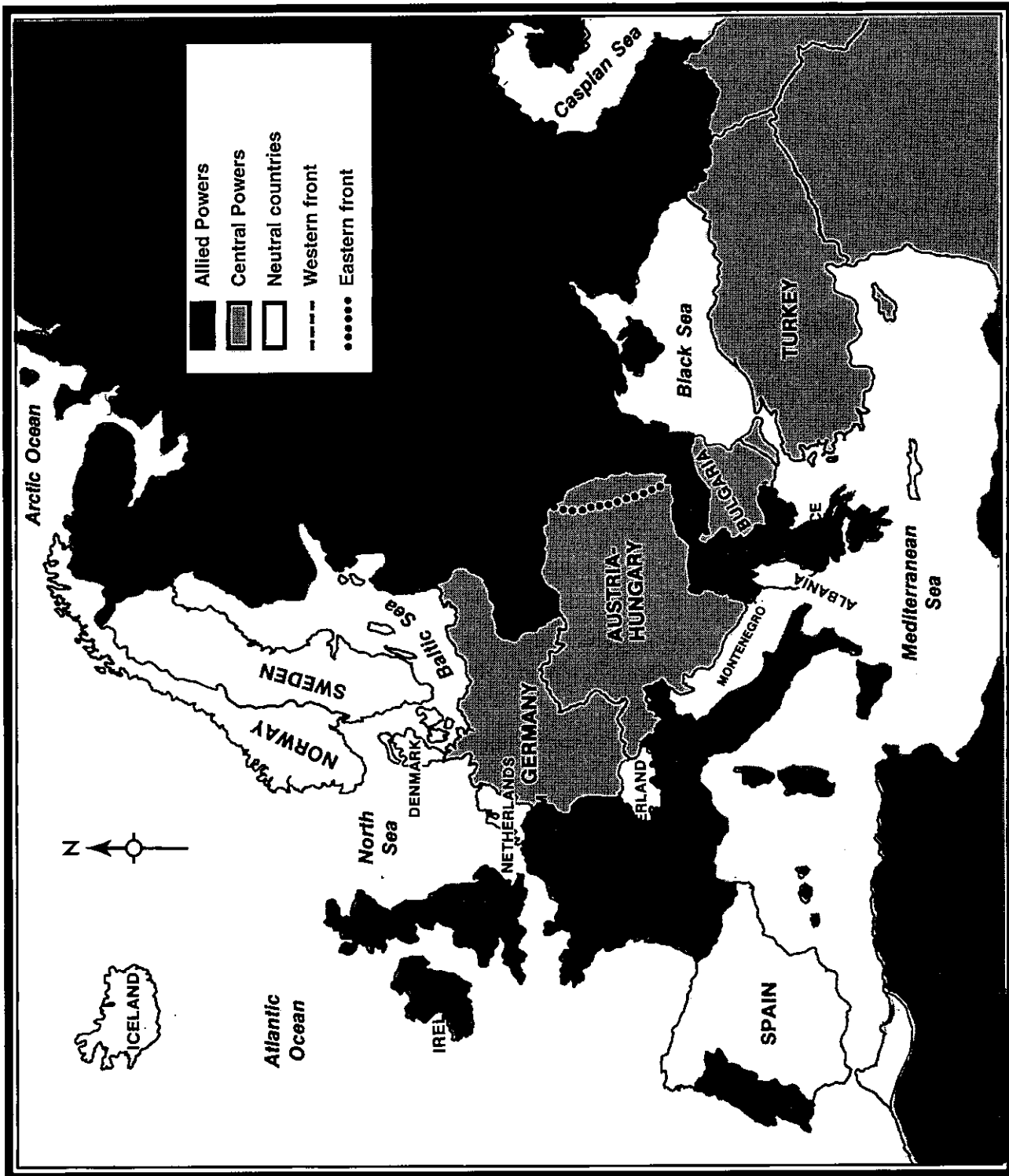
**armistice**—an informal agreement to stop fighting a war

## REVIEW: WORLD WAR I

The answer to each question is written in mixed-up order after the question. Unscramble the letters to spell each answer correctly. Write the correct answer on the line or lines provided.

- To what Latin American nation were United States Marines sent in 1912?  
**C A R A N I A U G** \_\_\_\_\_
- For what Mexican revolutionary leader did General Pershing hunt in 1916 and 1917?  
**C A N H O P A L L I V** \_\_\_\_\_
- What was the Triple Entente called after World War I began?  
**I A L E L S** \_\_\_\_\_
- What was the name of the Central Powers before World War I started?  
**P I T L E R L A N C E I A L**  
\_\_\_\_\_
- Whose death started World War I?  
**F A R I C N S F A N D D E R N I** \_\_\_\_\_
- What word means “not taking sides”?  
**L E N T R A U** \_\_\_\_\_
- What great passenger ship did the German *U-20* sink?  
**T A N I L U S A I** \_\_\_\_\_
- Who was the German who tried to get Mexico to go to war against the United States?  
**F A L D E R M M M A Z I E R N N**  
\_\_\_\_\_
- What was a U-boat?  
**M U S A B E I R N** \_\_\_\_\_
- What agreement was signed on November 11, 1918?  
**I C E M A R T I S** \_\_\_\_\_

### Europe: 1914



## MAP ACTIVITY: EUROPE IN 1914

Refer to the map on page 142 to answer the following and fill in the lines. Below some lines are numbers. Collect the numbered letters, put them in order at the bottom of the exercise, and spell out the topic.

1. The eastern front lay mainly within the boundaries of this large Allied country.

\_\_\_\_\_  
3

2. The western front lay mainly within the boundaries of this country.

\_\_\_\_\_  
7

3. What was the name given to Germany, Austria-Hungary, Bulgaria, and Turkey in World War I?

\_\_\_\_\_  
9

4. Nations that did not join either the Central Powers or the Allied Powers were called this.

\_\_\_\_\_  
8

5. This large island off the coast of France became an Allied nation.

\_\_\_\_\_  
10

6. If Germany had used either the Baltic Sea or the North Sea for its navy, the ships would have had to go past this Allied country.

\_\_\_\_\_  
11

7. This was the smallest of the Central Power countries.

\_\_\_\_\_  
4

8. These two neutral nations shared a large peninsula north of Germany and Denmark.

\_\_\_\_\_  
2    1    Y and    6    5    N

1   2   3   4   5   6   7   8   9   10   11

## PRESIDENT WILSON'S PLAN FOR PEACE

President Wilson had a plan for peace. He called it the Fourteen Points. His ideas included such things as freedom of the seas and smaller armies and navies. People living in colonies were to be helped to govern themselves. Trade among nations was to be made easier. A League of Nations was to be set up so nations could settle their differences by talk rather than by war.

Many nations did not agree with all of Wilson's ideas. When the peace treaty, or Treaty of Versailles, was finally signed, it had some of Wilson's ideas and some things he did not want. The League of Nations was formed. Germany, as punishment for the war, had to pay **reparations** to the countries it had hurt. Some new nations were formed in Europe, such as Austria, Hungary, Czechoslovakia, and Yugoslavia. Land for these nations was taken from Germany, Austria-Hungary, and Russia (which had become the Soviet Union, or U.S.S.R.). Germany was forbidden to have an army and a navy. Germany's foreign colonies were taken away.



President Woodrow Wilson

**reparations**—  
payments to make  
up for damages

The United States neither joined the League of Nations nor signed the Treaty of Versailles. Rather, in 1921, it signed a separate peace agreement with Germany.

President Wilson was brokenhearted that his own nation would not join the League. He made a long, hard trip across the United States trying to gain support for his ideas. During the trip he became very ill and had to return to Washington. He had destroyed his health trying to make a better world.

In the years that followed, the United States worked for world peace. The United States joined in many things done by the League of Nations. The United States took part in the World Court, which worked to settle problems of law between nations.

The United States led the world in cutting down the size of its army and navy. President Warren G. Harding got the nations of France, Great Britain, Japan, and Italy to join the United States in limiting the number of warships built.

At one time the United States even tried to get the nations of the world to outlaw war. The United States wanted world peace.

## BOOM TO BUST

After World War I, the people of the United States wanted to forget the fighting. They were eager to pick up their lives again and have fun. For this reason, the time after the war is called the Roaring Twenties.

The automobile had become popular. People were able to move about the nation quickly and easily. Pay was good, and jobs were easy to find. Everyone seemed to be doing well. The nation seemed well off, too.

Prohibition was then law, but the law was not followed very well. Even though it was against the law, many people made wine and whiskey at home. **Speakeasies** sold illegal whiskey to anyone who had the money, and most people had the money. New dances became popular. Young women, called **flappers**, shocked their elders by cutting their hair and wearing short skirts. All in all, the nation was having a pretty fine time.

### LOUIS ARMSTRONG (1901–1971)

Louis Armstrong was a musical talent even at a young age. He sang for money, but he also got in trouble. He ended up getting a year's discipline in a home for black children. It was here that Louis was taught to play a cornet. He learned the trumpet and the beginnings of jazz after he left the home.

Soon he was making people happy with his music. He played in big bands in both Chicago and New York.

In 1925, he formed a jazz band. A story says he introduced scat singing (singing nonsense syllables in interesting rhythms) because he dropped his sheet music. He also made playing jazz solos popular. He had a rasping, gravelly voice that people recognized and loved to hear. Armstrong traveled to Europe and Africa and became known as America's Ambassador of Goodwill.

**speakeasy**—illegal bar in the 1920s

**flapper**—a young woman in the 1920s who cut her hair short and wore fashionably short dresses

But there were problems. The American gangster was becoming bolder all the time. Bootleggers, or sellers of illegal whiskey, shot it out with the police every so often. Sometimes, innocent people were killed in these shootouts.

Also, many people discovered a new game to play. It was called the **stock market**. The rules were easy. You picked a stock you thought looked good. You bought the stock. If its price went up, you won. If it went down, you lost. More and more people began to play the market. The prices seemed always to go up. To make it easier to play, people were allowed to buy stock on margin. This meant they had to pay for only part of what they bought. For instance, a person could buy \$1,000 worth of shares in General Motors for \$100 down. It sounded easy and fun. As long as your stock went up, you were winning.

Then something went wrong. In the fall of 1929, prices began to drop. Stockbrokers, or sellers of stock, called people who had bought stocks on margin. These people were asked to pay what they owed on the stocks they had bought. When they could not pay, their stocks were sold. Suddenly, everyone was selling, and the prices dropped even more. Panic set in.

Things steadily became worse. The United States was in the Great **Depression**. Almost overnight, everything seemed to go wrong. Prices on farm goods dropped. Cows that had been bought for \$150 sold for \$10. Butter brought only a few cents a pound. Thousands of farmers who could not pay loans due on their farms lost their homes and farms.

**stock market**—a place where people buy and sell shares, called stocks, in companies

**depression**—a period of poor economic activity and high unemployment

Factory workers suddenly were out of jobs. The factories could not run when people did not have money to buy their products. Lines of jobless people formed in nearly every city.

### CRITICAL THINKING

Not all people suffered during the Great Depression. Some became better off than before. Which people would you expect to have profited during the Great Depression, and why?

The land east of the Rocky Mountains became the center of the **Dust Bowl**. **Drought** and strong winds caused black dust clouds to cover entire states. People from states such as Oklahoma headed toward California looking for work. Usually they were no better off after they arrived.

No one knew when the Great Depression would end. The people of the nation were frightened. In 1932, Franklin D. Roosevelt was elected president. He had some ideas he thought might help the nation.

### REVIEW: THE EARLY 1900s

Each sentence below has one incorrect word in it. Find the incorrect word, cross it out, and write the correct word above it.

1. Woodrow Wilson's plan for peace was called his ~~Fifteen~~<sup>Fourteen</sup> Points.
2. The League of ~~Countries~~ was Wilson's idea.
3. The Agreement of Versailles was not signed by the United States.
4. The World Trial was set up by the League of Nations.
5. The years after World War I were called the Booming Twenties.
6. Talkies were places in which to buy illegal whiskey.
7. Legbooters sold illegal whiskey during Prohibition.
8. In the 1920s, many people played the black market.
9. In 1929, the Great Regression began.
10. Drought and wind helped cause the Dust Bin in the Great Plains states.

**Dust Bowl**—an area in the United States (including parts of Texas, New Mexico, Colorado, Kansas, and Oklahoma) where a long period without rain made soil so dry it blew away, creating huge clouds of dust

**drought**—a long period with little or no rain